



EXPRESS MAIL NO. EV336616000US

PATENT

*Response  
#12  
11/24/03*

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : Flavia Borella et al.  
Application No. : 10/057,003  
Filed : January 24, 2002  
For : FAULT MANAGEMENT METHOD FOR ELECTRONIC  
BALLAST

Examiner : Minh D. A  
Art Unit : 2821  
Docket No. : 853063.499  
Date : November 4, 2003

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Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RESPONSE UNDER 37 CFR §1.55(a)(4)

Commissioner for Patents:

In response to the Office Action dated August 4, 2003, applicants submit the following:

Claims 1 and 3-16 are currently pending.

The Examiner has rejected claim 1, 3-9, and 13 under 35 USC §102 (b) as being unpatentable over Konopka (6,501,225).

Applicants note that Konopka enjoys a priority date of August 6, 2001.

As required under 37 CFR §1.55(a)(4), an English translation of the original PCT application PCT/IT01/00031, filed January 24, 2001, from which priority is claimed in the above referenced application, is herewith attached, together with a statement that the translation of the certified copy is accurate. A certified copy of the PCT application was filed September 17, 2002 and was acknowledged in the Office Action. Accordingly, Konopka is removed as a prior art reference.

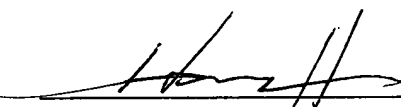
Inasmuch as there are no other rejections, all of the claims stand in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and a Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees due by way of this Amendment, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-1090.

Respectfully submitted,

Flavia Borella et al.

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